

# NEWARK MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST MAYOR'S VACCINE ORDER

PAGE 11

Photos By Dhiren Shah



# LOCALS MOURN ACTOR MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS

PAGE 10

Photo via Instagram



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# IDA LEAVES SALVAGING & MOURNING IN ITS WAKE SETON HALL & MONTCLAIR STATE STUDENTS MISSING IN IDA FLOODS



A deluge of mud coats Jefferson St. in Orange in the aftermath of Ida

By Lev D. Zilbermints

By Walter Elliott

**ESSEX** - Many people in the "Local Talk" area joined millions of others elsewhere in the Northeast and as far out as the Gulf Coast in salvaging what they can from former Hurricane Ida since Sept. 1-2.

First responders had mostly gone from rescue to recovery by Friday, Sept. 3. They are still looking for four missing New Jersey residents as of press time - including a Seton Hall University fresh-

man who may have been swept into McDonald's Brook underground culvert in Passaic.

Few people - with all the pumping out, throwing out, drying out and salvaging going on - were able to take the Labor Day holiday or weekend off.

Furnishings and debris, including ruined drywall and ceiling panels, began piling up on curbsides to bulk trash day levels Friday, Sept. 2 Newark, East Orange, Orange,

(Continued on page 5)

of water on Main Avenue during the record downpour on September 1.

Two students, one from Seton Hall University, the other from Montclair State University, are missing after reportedly being swept away by raging floodwaters brought to New Jersey by Hurricane Ida on September 1.

Ayush Rana, a Montclair State University student, and Nidhi Rana, a freshman Seton Hall student, were both swept away by the raging floodwaters, CBS New York reported.

PIX11 reported that a Passaic resident, Lady Torres, said that she felt helpless, crying from her second floor window as she saw the two college students get swept away by the flood

of water on Main Avenue during the record downpour on September 1.

According to Torres, "when they (the two students) got to the middle of the street, they got out of the car. And I don't know if they were trying to take a video but the car just started moving and the current was so strong it just swept everyone away."

According to PIX11, officials said the students' car and phones were recovered. However, the two students have not yet been found.

No one really knows where the students are. PIX11 reported that one theory is that the pair was swept out into a nearby storm drain which empties into the Passaic River.

(Continued on page 13)



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**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

California Governor Gavin Newsom will face a tough recall election. According to the polls Newsom should save his governorship. California's party affiliation of voters is 46.5% Democrat, 24.1% Republican and 23.3% independent, which have no party affiliation. It is a very close divide amongst voters, as well as due to the way Newsom handled the corona situation. People are not happy. Most of the time people vote with their party candidate. So, it is a close call, but the latest poll says Newsom will survive the September 14, 2021 election.

According to CNN: "Taliban fighters used whips and sticks against a group of women protesting in Kabul on Wednesday following the announcement of a hardline, male-only interim gov-

ernment, in the group's latest crackdown on dissent in Afghanistan. Videos and images received by CNN show the women chanting, 'Long live the women of Afghanistan'... The fighters also beat a number of journalists covering the demonstration, according to witnesses."

In the United States, we have freedom. We support women in the world and Saudi Arabia now allows women to drive cars. However, after withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, that country seems to be going in the wrong direction. Vice President Kamala Harris said that gender equality makes democracy stronger. However, what about in non-democratic countries? How will she help women's empowerment in the world?

Eight days after Ida, over 100,000 customers do not have their power back yet in Louisiana. 70% of power came back in the Baton Rouge area. Entergy has had a hard time restoring power. At some of the houses, they cannot bring trucks to their front or back yard to reinstall the lines. So, it takes a lot longer to reinstall the lines. Also, a short-

age of knowledgeable workers adds to the slow process. Ida was or was close to being the strongest hurricane that hit the mainland U.S., and it took the lives of about 100 people. When it dropped to a tropical storm, Ida took more lives in the north-eastern region of the U.S., including New Jersey and New York.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka issued an executive order for mandatory vaccination to all city employees. I understand that vaccination is necessary to living a normal regular life, as before February 2020. So, for the sake of the health of the city's employees and citizens, he has made the executive order.

Vaccination may be a big money maker for all departments involved, as so much money will flow in the city, township, county, and state from the federal government. With the money power, everyone is trying to push for vaccination. However, people have their own mind to make decisions. Also, some of the religious leaders are advising their followers not to vaccinate; that is also wrong. When we are

talking about the freedom of choice, let it be the people's choice independently.

The U.S. has crossed 100,000 new COVID cases a day for the past few days. Tennessee and Florida have over 10,000 cases a day, while Texas has 158 deaths a day. Coronavirus cases and deaths are increasing, so we all must be very cautious every day.

Wherever I go, from grocery stores to malls, people have stopped using masks. The masks are very important to protect ourselves. Also, I talked to a few people and observed in the stores that people have stopped using hand sanitizer, and distancing is no longer in place. We all should get back to basics with what we used to do in April 2020, following CDC guidelines, masks, sanitization and social distancing. Then, let the experts work among themselves to curb the pandemic.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Early Rain	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Isolated PM T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Mitigation Measures By Schools In The Light Of Delta

The year 2020 will forever ring in the heads of many as one of the worst years in the history of this country. Many people died, and many more were affected adversely in some way by the virus, directly or indirectly. At some point in 2020, physical learning in schools was not even

on the cards. The consensus was that our schools needed to remain locked until the safety of students could be assured.

Well, the vaccines came around, and optimism filled the air. We were finally getting somewhere, even though children still could not take the vaccines. Schools started reopening across the countries, with mitigation measures like masks, proper ventilation, testing, social distancing, quarantine helping schools keep students safe.

Then, some months back, people as young as 12 years old were eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Again, this was fabulous news. Now, we were finally getting somewhere. Or so we thought.

The virus, not to be defeated, evolved into newer, more contagious strains. One of these strains is the Delta virus, which is more transmissible than the parent strain. More transmissibility means more people can get the virus, which corresponds to more hospitalizations and deaths. To make matters worse, increased transmissibility may not even be the worst part of the Delta strain.



As you may have noticed, the Delta strain can still infect vaccinated people. That's just a sucker punch right there because, why? Someone should tell the virus to chill out; it's not that deep.

This development has, in turn, cast doubts about reopening schools again. I remember the arguments and fights about reopening schools last year, and here we are, in the exact same situation - maybe even worse, who knows.

The question on the lips of many parents is, "is it safe to reopen schools now because of Delta?" The question is quite simple; a polar one that only requires a "yes" or a "no," yet we find ourselves struggling to answer the question.

For one, the mitigation measures that worked well last year may not be enough because this new strain is more transmissible. Aside from that, we have also known more about the fact that the virus is likely aerosol driven and the 6-foot rule hasn't made sense to me as it wouldn't prevent you from catching the virus, even if you were 10 feet away if another person with it was to sneeze without a face-covering on to prevent it from spreading. Also don't forget that the virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours (such as a stainless steel or plastic surfaces) and can spread via stool, tears and even blood! Everyone needs to continue to sanitize and wash their hands.

Let's consider some of these measures and if they can still help. Number one, masks. Can it still help? Yes. More like, "hell yes!" actually. I was never a supporter of removing the mask mandate when we did and we greatly suffered for it, as we can now see. There have been

many theories, scientific and conspiracy, about masks but one thing is beyond doubt, they work. Masks work. We can debate how much they work, but we cannot debate that they work.

The issue is, with the Delta strain, ordinary double-layered cloth masks may not work as well. Surgical masks are still quite dependable, but they are relatively loose-fitting for children. Because there is virtually no risk involved too with mask-wearing, it will still serve as an ever-essential mitigation tool for Delta.

Then, to ventilation. Studies have shown that opening windows not only helps reduce transmission of the virus, but also the sunlight itself is fatal to the virus. Data shows that 15 to 20 minutes of direct sunlight inactivates the virus! Using HEPA filters and air purifiers reduces transmission even more. It is, therefore, little wonder why New York have sought to make them available in schools.

Another key mitigation method is weekly testing of the virus and having a system of contact tracing, which may sound complicated, but rather is quite simple and can be automated. The entire system depends on assigned seating and knowing the whereabouts of the students in each class; by doing so, we will be able to keep track of all close contacts and if someone tests positive, can take appropriate steps to quarantine and test the close contacts.

Lastly, another method is to set up traffic patterns for the students in the schools. With class changes, the students would be required to follow the specified patterns and limit any un-needed mixing. This would

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



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**IDA**

*(Continued from page 1)*

South Orange, Maplewood, Montclair have since been holding special pickup runs.

Bloomfield has meanwhile waived zoning and construction permit fees for storm emergency work through Dec. 1.

Many were also counting their losses in terms of possessions and time for work, school and/or worship. A few were still waiting to get back to their dwellings as of press time.

The USPS Irvington Branch Post Office, for example, remains closed as of press time. The branch's basement was flooded by the adjacent Elizabeth River.

The Maplewood Memorial Library will remain closed, its basement flooded by the nearby Rahway River East Branch. The South Orange Public Library, about two blocks uphill of that stream in that village's center, was only closed Sept. 2 (See Town Watch for related Maplewood library story.)

Two public school districts have postponed welcoming their

students to as far as Sept. 13.

South Orange-Maplewood Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor, citing damage to its school buses and some of its 11 buildings, as "tentatively" reset its First Day of School to Sept. 13.

Montclair Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds has meanwhile been aiming to "be open and ready for students on Sept. 9." MPS staff have been repairing damage in Montclair High School, Bradford and Hillside schools done by the Third River.

Some stage and movie theaters - including SOPAC's main stage and Montclair Film - also had to postpone their re-opening plans to at least Oct. 1.

Bloomfield High School's Sept. 3 game against Nutley moved to the latter's Owens Park after William Foley Field was awash. East Orange Campus High School played host to Montclair after a special game slated for Rutgers' SHI Stadium in Piscataway was washed out. Columbia High School likewise hosted Morristown at Maplewood's Underhill Field.

Some remain in mourning.

There have been 97 people declared dead in Ida's wake, as of Sept. 7, from Venezuela to Connecticut. New Jersey has 27 deaths - the highest of the reporting nine states.

Four of those deaths happened in Essex County - with two identified in "Local Talk" territory.

Bloomfield police officers responded to the side of an Ampere Parkway house at 11:30 p.m. They said they found Aven-tino Soares, 58, lying in a pool of water with an electrical cord in his hand and across his chest.

BPD, presuming that Soares had been electrocuted while plugging in a generator, called Bloomfield firefighters to shut off power. (Soares' obituary appears elsewhere in this edition.)

Maplewood Police Chief Jim De Vaul said his officers found the body of Patrick Jeffrey, 55, around 658 Ridgewood Rd. at 7:12 a.m. Sept. 2. They and fire rescue crews had searched for him from when his wife reported him missing 9:30 p.m. Sept. 1 until the storm got too bad at 11 p.m. and resumed at dawn.

It is believed that Jeffrey had been swept downhill and west

some 6,000 feet. from his Maple Terrace home. Jeffrey was last seen alive clearing debris from storm drains at 8:30 p.m. He was declared dead at the scene.

Gov. Phil Murphy had ordered all flags to be lowered to half-staff Sept. 8-10 in memory of then 27 dead and four missing.

Most people around here knew Ida would be serious once she made landfall south of New Orleans 2 p.m. Central Time Aug. 29. The tropical depression had built into a Category 4 hurricane, packing 150 mph winds, after skirting Venezuela and clipping northwest Cuba.

Ida hit New Orleans 16 years to the day that the catastrophic Hurricane Katrina struck. The post-Katrina levees, one hand, held up. There were, on the other hand, nearly one million people without electrical power and at least five people dying in senior citizen homes.

PSE&G and NJ Task Force One sent several work crews and emergency responders to help out metropolitan New Orleans Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

Few here knew, however, *(Continued on page 8)*



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## RAGE BOILS OVER TEXAS LAWS

### UNITED STATES

Not one, but two bits of legislation in the Lone Star state has the nation, and even world, in an uproar.

First, on Sept. 1, the Texas Heartbeat Act went into effect after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene. The main sticking parts of the law make it illegal for a woman to get an abortion six weeks into a pregnancy, and that another party - relevant or irrelevant in any relation to the woman at all - could sue the woman and/or anyone involved with her getting an abortion.

Basically, if you were to tell a woman that there was an abortion clinic somewhere, you and the woman could be sued. Also, upon a successful lawsuit, the plaintiffs would be rewarded \$10,000 by the state government.

Finally, there are no exceptions for rape or incest. In response to criticism over this aspect, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said that he "eliminate rapists," though he did not clarify as to how.

Needless to say, this Act has outraged scores of women not just in the U.S. but worldwide. In addition to a bunch of reasons, two that immediately come to mind is that a woman who is late on her period could be in the six-week window. Also, many of the people who signed off on this law are among those who protest wearing masks because "my body my choice." Yet, this does not apply to women in their opinion for some reason.

The other law that has people up in arms is an elections overhaul that Abbott signed into law Sept. 7 which adds more voting restrictions. Historically, such efforts to limit voting affects minorities and those living in poverty.

Officials from the Biden Administration have vowed to take action on both laws in Texas,

and to fight any other states looking to follow suit.

## ACAPULCO ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE

### MEXICO

Vacationers looking to enjoy one of the world's premiere destinations got rocked by something other than the entertainment.

On Sept. 8, a massive 7.0 earthquake shook the Mexican resort town, with at least 100 aftershocks reported. Seismic instruments indicate the earthquake was shallow, originating at a depth of about 12.5 miles beneath the city of Acapulco. Perceived shaking for the quake was very strong near the epicenter. Moderate shaking was felt in Mexico City.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a preliminary Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response (PAGER) report is Orange for both shaking-related fatalities and economic losses, indicating significant casualties and damage are likely and the disaster is potentially widespread.

The earthquake resulted from thrust faulting on the subduction zone where the Cocos plate dives down into the mantle beneath the North America plate and Central America. Large earthquakes in the region are common. This earthquake occurred along a segment of the Middle America subduction zone that is thought capable of producing magnitude 8 or greater earthquakes, and that has not hosted an event larger than magnitude 7 since 1911.

## FEARS FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

### MIDDLE EAST

The Security Council cannot fail the women and girls of Afghanistan, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson warned on Sept. 7, as she reminded its 15 members of the relentless work carried out over nearly 20 years to secure their rights through constitutional, legislative and policy changes.

"Women's rights are not Western rights," she said, ad-

ressing the Council in her role as Chairperson of The Elders, a group of global leaders working for peace and justice across the world, founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007. "They are fundamental human rights, which women had reclaimed in accordance with their cultural values."

Ms. Robinson, also the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called on China and the Russian Federation, in particular, to encourage the Taliban to recognize that the participation of women in society and the education of girls on an equal basis with boys, are non-negotiable and must be respected.

"Collectively, you have all been entrusted with a powerful mandate to act on behalf of the United Nations," she recalled. "A united, purposeful Council is needed now more than ever."

The issue was one of several raised by Ms. Robinson and Lakhdar Brahimi, Elder Emeritus and former Foreign Minister of Algeria, who noted that the mandate of the United Nations is to protect the fundamental rights of all Afghans - including women and girls, those internally displaced, all minorities and human rights defenders - efforts that will require the Council's support.

Offering his views on the situation, he recalled that attempts by Afghanistan's [former] Vice-President Amrullah Saleh and Ahmad Massoud, son of late commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, to resist in the Panjshir Valley appear to have been defeated on 5 September. The Taliban now exercise near sole control over the country.

"Afghanistan today is not the Afghanistan I knew in the late 1990s and from 2001 to early January 2004," he said. "To say that the humanitarian situation is dire would be an understatement and the needs are most urgent."

This call for Afghani women support comes as Taliban officials announced that they would be forming an all-male government. Taliban fighters hit a group of women protesting the announcement with whips and sticks.

## MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN CONGO

### AFRICA

The global phase-out of leaded fuel represents a "milestone for multilateralism", UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Aug. 30, marking the end of a 20-year campaign to eliminate a major threat to the health of people and the planet.

A deadly outbreak of meningitis has been declared in a northeastern province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the World Health Organization (WHO) have been supporting health authorities to deploy an initial emergency response team.

More than 260 suspected cases and 129 deaths have been reported in Tshopo Province; a high case fatality ratio of 50 percent, the UN health agency said on Sept. 8.

Tests carried out by the Institut Pasteur in Paris, detected Neisseria meningitidis. It is one of the most frequent strains of the bacterial form of the disease, and it has the potential to cause large epidemics.

WHO said that more than 100 patients are receiving treatment at home and in health centers in Banalia, the community affected by the outbreak.

Meningitis is potentially fatal and must be treated with antibiotics as soon as possible.

Major improvements have also been made on vaccines to treat the viral form of the disease, which is transmitted through the air by infected carriers. Although people of all ages can catch the disease, it mainly affects babies, children and young people.

Over the years, major improvements have been made on vaccines against infection, which are specific to the type of meningitis.

The disease is transmitted through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from infected people. Close and prolonged contact or living in close quarters with an infected person facilitates the spread of the disease.

Although people of all ages can catch meningitis, it mainly affects babies, children and young people. "



# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Starting A Business: Part 9 Mentors

In the last piece we mentioned two organizations that provide free services to entrepreneurs within the community. They are the S.C.O.R.E. Program and the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). They are both great resources for budding entrepreneurs. The big bonus in utilizing either of these two resources is the fact that the cost is zero! It is highly recommended that one take advantage of this opportunity.

Having worked with diverse entrepreneurs in the past 30 years, it has dawned on me that several of the entrepreneurs we worked with benefited greatly from mentorship and advisory roles. We worked with a transport company that wanted to acquire tankers to move oil and related products for Oil Marketing Companies. Though we started the relationship as consultants tasked with developing their business plan, we eventually provided advisory services.

In this capacity, management would call us on a regular basis to meet and discuss trends, challenges and opportunities. This client was highly knowledgeable. In addition, they thrived on obtaining as much information as possible as well as assessing such information, prior to making any business decisions. These were all very sound business practices.

The client was more than capable of making their business decisions without our assistance. However, they saw my consulting firm as a resource and took advantage of that to ensure efficiency in decision making with optimal results. To our client, our advice assisted them to make strategic decisions that increased their profitability. They recognized the contribution that we could make to their business and utilized it effectively to grow their business.

The beginning of the business set-up process can be overwhelming. As a result, it can be very helpful to have a mentor or coach that can advise as one continues to learn and grow the business. A mentor can assist an entrepreneur to minimize the risk of making decisions that can push one out of business. That alone is a major reason to have a mentor.

There are various options when it comes to finding a mentor. Sometimes, entrepreneurs meet people along their business development journey that grow into the role of mentors. Typically, a good mentor should have certain characteristics. First and foremost, the person must have business experience. They ideally should have successfully set up and grown their own businesses. Such a person comes with business experience that money cannot buy. They can advise and guide you as you continue to grow your business.

We have already mentioned SCORE and the SBDC. They can also be credible options for obtaining mentors. In addition, there is the advantage that your mentor can utilize their extensive network to support your business as and when necessary or possible.

In most cases, mentors are not paid. However, there are options for those who can afford it to identify and utilize mentors for a fee. For example, in the case of our transport client, he compensated my company for

(Continued on page 12)

# BANKRUPTCY

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	5941	116	6002	117
Bloomfield	5688	126	5726	126
Caldwell	658	16	662	16
Cedar Grove	1645	121	1664	121
East Orange	7611	317	7691	318
Essex Fells	208	2	208	2
Fairfield	953	31	961	31
Glen Ridge	430	14	437	14
Irvington	5090	237	5153	238
Livingston	1993	89	2037	89
Maplewood	1433	37	1460	39
Millburn	895	10	918	10
Montclair	2455	74	2503	75
Newark	38942	1030	<b>39218</b>	<b>1037</b>
North Caldwell	541	7	545	7
Nutley	3225	66	3256	66
Orange	3743	138	3771	138
Roseland	506	17	508	17
South Orange	960	16	975	16
Verona	1083	18	1098	18
West Caldwell	1118	54	1122	54
West Orange	4848	233	4898	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>89966</b>	<b>2769</b>	<b>90813</b>	<b>2783</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of September 8, 2021)**  
**NJ: 965,265 cases / 24,258 deaths (Plus 2,749 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 40.39 Million / 652,000 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 222.34 Million / 4.593 Million deaths**



**IDA**

(Continued from page 5)

how bad Ida would be.

Ida dropped to a Category 2 Hurricane, with 105 mph winds, while it tracked north and became a tropical depression while it arced eastward over the Ohio River Valley. Ida, however, still carried warm and humid air when it met up with cooler and drier air from the north over Pennsylvania.

The National Weather Service, on Aug. 29, labeled Ida an EF2-level storm with heavy thundershowers and potential tornado generation. It also declared flash flood watches for New Jersey and, for the first time, for New York City.

NOAA, on Aug. 31, issued a high risk of excessive rainfall of over six inches.

Rain, which arrived in Maplewood and West Orange at 5:55 p.m. a few minutes before the Passaic River and Newark Bay reached high tide. The ground was saturated after Tropical Storm Henri Aug. 22 and a wet August. The incoming rain had nowhere to go.

The intensity built to more than three inches an hour. Newark Liberty International Airport recorded a record 3.24 inches in an hour; New York City's Central Park logged 3.15 in. an hour.

EWR would register 8.10 inches in six hours, making Ida a one-in-a-500-year rainstorm. Central Park recorded 6.67 in. the same period.

Many streams that drain into the Passaic, Rahway and Elizabeth rivers began overflowing their banks in low-lying areas by the 9 p.m. hour. They include:

- Peckman River; West Orange to Passaic River
- Third / Yantacaw River; Montclair, Bloomfield, Belleville to Passaic River
- Second/Watsessing River: West Orange, Orange, East Orange Bloomfield, Belleville to Passaic River
- Tony's Brook: Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield to Second River.
- Wigwam Brook: West Orange, Orange, East Orange to Second River
- Nishaune Brook: Montclair, West Orange to Tony's

- Parrow Brook: Orange Culvert
- Rahway River East Branch: Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, Millburn
- Elizabeth River: East Orange, Newark, Irvington
- Lightning Brook: Maplewood, Irvington, Union to Elizabeth River

Flooding had also occurred among depressed storm sewer catch basins and under highway and railroad underpasses. Sanitary sewers also backed up and overflowed sinks and toilets.

Those who had basements and/or first floors - whether for parking, storage and/or living -- were particular targets.

The flooding also affected Newark Liberty International Airport, forcing its traffic control tower to close 9-9:40 p.m. Videos surfaced of Terminal B's baggage area and ground floor level being awash.

(Noon Sept. 2.: Newark South Street between Pulaski and Mulberry streets, First and Bloomfield avenues between north 10th and 12th streets, 82 Halstead St., Central Avenue and Duryea Street, parts of Frelinghuysen Avenue and US Rt. 22.)

The Newark Department of Public Safety said its firefighters and police officers rescued 485 people overnight.

The 485 rescued included 215 passengers and crew of NJTransit Northeast Corridor Train No. 3881 when it had lost electrical power across from Toler Place. It took NFD firefighters and an NJTransit diesel locomotive crew eight and a half hours to get the train to the safety of Newark Airport Station.

No. 3881, which left New York Penn Station and was to finish at Trenton 9:16 p.m., stopped a half-mile short of its scheduled 8:08 arrival at EWR.

Firefighters, who arrived at 8:30, found 3881 standing on Track 5 in up to five feet of water. NFD decided to leave riders on the train and await help from another NJT locomotive.

One diesel-electric locomotive, dispatched from the Meadowland Maintenance Center in Kearny, turned back when the tracks were flooded by the Hunter Interlocking Tower across from Bigelow Street. A

diesel locomotive pushed the train set to the station platform at 5 a.m. Sept. 2.

NJTransit had meanwhile suspended all commuter rail line service except on the Atlantic City Line. The suspension was in part because corridor owner Amtrak reported downed power wires between Princeton and Trenton.

Amtrak also suspended its entire Northeast Corridor and Empire Service through Sept. 2.

NJTransit suspended all three light rail lines; Newark Light Rail's Broad Street Extension, with its Mulberry Street Tunnel, was the last to resume. Buses were running Sept. 1 with up to 60 min. delays due to flooding and detours.

PATH's Newark Penn Station-World Trade Center route was suspended overnight. Its Harrison Station reopened once waist-high water on Frank Rodgers Boulevard had receded Friday afternoon.

Those learning what mass transit was running Thursday morning also saw footage of the Garden State Parkway over East Orange's Remsen Street overpass. They saw NJ Turnpike Authority equipment draining catchbasins and pushing away some 24 abandoned cars. Local northbound traffic was detoured off Exit 147, near the Bloomfield border.

The GSP, that morning, was closed between Exits 142 and 148. Interstate 20 was closed between the Parkway and West Orange's Pleasant Valley Way. Interstate 78 was closed between Broad Street Summit and Route 82 - Morris Avenue.

Belleville Mayor Michael Melham said that residents at the Bridgebrook Condominiums lost 200 of their parked cars.

Newark was left with 185 abandoned vehicles on its streets. They included Federal Express truck was seen vacant on Northbound Rt. 21-McCarter Highway before Bridge Street.

Flooding also happened at several highway exits including GSP Exit 150-Hoover Avenue Bloomfield and US Rt. 1&9/NJ Rt. 21 at Newark's Broad Street.

Several parishioners at Belleville's St. Anthony of Padua gathered around one of their

(Continued on page 15)

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# TOWN WATCH

**DISCLAIMER:** The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

## Locals Mourn Actor Michael K. Williams

**IRVINGTON** - There are those here, in Newark and elsewhere in New Jersey who believe that they would have read actor Michael K. Williams' Sept. 6 obituary some years 17 years earlier if it were not for the help from a well-regarded township pastor.

Williams, 54, who was found dead in his Brooklyn apartment 2 p.m. Monday, portrayed Omar Little on HBO's "The Wire" 2002-07. Little was a complex character, best known for sticking up street pushers with a shotgun.

Williams, however, began to use marijuana and became a cocaine addict in 2004. The former Isabella Avenue, Newark resident said he was using "in scary places with scary people" here, there, in Paterson and likely elsewhere nearby.

A friend found and brought Williams to the office of Rev. Ronald Bernard Christian here at Christian Love Baptist Church. Rev. Ron, on one hand, was the shepherd of some 6,000 CLBC members. He had also been a homeless addict with a criminal record; he kept a pair of prison pants in his office closet.

"He was the first person who I laid it all out before him," said Williams of Christian. "He never judged me. He loved me until I could love myself."

Williams, who visited CLBC until at least 2012, went on to be a key character in "Boardwalk Empire" and was touted for an Emmy Award for "Lovecraft Country," among other roles. He also worked with an inmate re-entry program with former Gov. James McGreevey.

Christian, 51, died suddenly at his office desk Oct. 20, 2015.

**NEWARK** - University Hospital fired at least two of its employees accused of trafficking fake CDC COVID-19 vaccination cards Aug. 30.

One of the fired workers - Jasmine Clifford, 31, of Lyndhurst - was charged Aug. 31 in a New York County District Court with second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and first-degree offering a false instrument for filing.

Clifford is accused of selling about 250 forged U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccination cards through her @AntiVaxMomma Instagram account. She was accused of accepting \$200 per card via CashApp or Zelle.

Clifford and a New York City woman, accused of entering 10 names into the New York State Immunization Information System, are the only ones named and charged Aug. 31. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr said they were two of 13 arrested; University Hospital President Dr. Shereef Elnahal said "a handful" of his employees were fired.

"We took a critical look at the cards and found noticeable differences between the cards looked and the real cards looked," said Elnahal. "We were able to detect those cases. It makes everybody less safe if people are dishonest about their vaccination status."

It is believed that Clifford was offering the forged cards to hospital employees and other frontline workers. The phony card ring comes when Elnahal said that over 90 percent of University's 3,700 employees were fully vaccinated before Aug. 3. Aug. 3 was the date when unvaccinated employees faced discipline leading to firing.

**EAST ORANGE** - The husband-and-wife co-owners of a now-closed school bus operation here received more bad news from a State Superior Court-Newark grand jury Aug. 31.

The grand jury, said Acting N.J. Attorney General Andrew Bruck later that Tuesday, had indicted Ahmed Mahgoub, 63, and Fazia Ibrahim, 48, each on second-degree counts of false representations for a government

contract, theft by deception, conspiracy and corporate official misconduct. The East Hanover couple were also indicted with third-degree public records or information tampering and fourth-degree records falsifying or tampering.

The bills of indictment the grand jury handed down are identical to the complaint summonses authorities had issued Mahgoub and Ibrahim Oct. 8, 2020.

The couple was accused of failing to have complete records of their F&A Transportation/Smart Union drivers and vehicles. They had allegedly hired drivers who used illegal drugs, did not have valid drivers licenses and/or had criminal backgrounds. They had failed to maintained or falsified vehicle inspection records on NJMVC forms.

F&A/Smart Union, who had been transporting students and patients since 2010, had \$3.5 million worth of contracts with public school districts in Essex, Passaic, Union and Morris counties.

Newark Public Schools canceled its contract after a bus aide had lost consciousness while driving 12 special needs students and ran a minivan into a tree during a Feb. 20, 2019 snowstorm.

Prosecutors asserted that Lisa Byrd, 57, had injected heroin before driving; Newark police said they used Narcan to revive her and had found drug paraphernalia. Mahgoub, at the time, said Byrd had complained that her diabetes medication was not working and that she drove when the assigned driver failed to show.

Byrd is on five years' probation after pleading guilty to a count of child endangerment.

**ORANGE** - Those who wanted to personally attend a council meeting here, for the second time in 18 days, found City Hall's door locked Sept. 7.

The City Hall lockdown Aug. 20 came out of a legality dispute between Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and five City Council members.

That impasse ended with the said council members voted to override Mayor Warren's Aug. 14 veto of Orange's five-year ban on Cannabis-Based Busi-

nesses. That override was recorded by City Clerk Joyce Lanier.

Tuesday night's lockdown, this time, came in an Aug. 30 public notice posted through Lanier's office. The notice, posted on both the city and council's websites and Facebook pages, said that this and future meetings will be held via Zoom Audio-Video Conference for the time being. The post said that this was due "to the State of Emergency directly related to COVID-19."

"The State (of New Jersey) has recorded increasing COVID rates," Lanier told "Local Talk" Tuesday morning. "It was decided it would be good to go all-Zoom."

The public may send in their public speaking segment remarks to citizencomments@orangenj.gov for the next council meeting, set for Sept. 21, before 7 p.m. the night beforehand. See the public notices for the Zoom link address.

The on-in-person council meetings include the 4:30 p.m. Sept. 10 public hearing on PSE&G's changing its balancing charge for residential gas customers.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange Board of Education gave its Superintendent of Schools, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, a vote of confidence by extending his contract a year here at their Aug. 30 meeting.

The board unanimously approved extending Cascone's contract to June 30, 2024. That contract includes another two percent annual increase, which will last kick in on July 1, 2023.

Cascone, who had earned \$188,821 Aug. 27, is projected to receive \$192,597.28 by June 30, 2022, \$195,189.16 by June 30, 2023 and top out at \$199,092.94 on June 30, 2024.

"Dr. Cascone has not had a normal year since he got here," said Board President Terry Trigg-Scales. "That had a lot to do with extending his contract."

Cascone was originally hired to a three-year contract July 15, 2019.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Those who have been watching the Baird Community Center from Mead Street, Meadowland Park and/or passing NJTransit M&E

(Continued on page 14)



# NEWARK MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST MAYOR'S VACCINE ORDER



By Dhiren Shah

Newark Mayor Baraka issued a mandatory executive order for city employees to vaccinate. Baraka stated, "Requiring our municipal workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine is about protecting the health and well-being of our municipal team, their families, as well as the residents and visitors they come into contact with."

However, city employees were unhappy with the way it was mandated. Vaccination should be the people's choice and not the compulsory.

Anthony Tarantino, President of the Newark Fire Officers Union, said that the mayor did not bother to call the union either. They received the executive order letter from the mayor, and then the Union went to court and received a temporary stay. The deadline for the original executive order stay is September 16, 2021. The city has not reinstated the executive order yet.

Several employees' unions held a protest on Sept. 8 at 11am. The permit was from 11 am to 1 pm at the steps of Newark City Hall.

Tarantino said that the mandate is in contradiction to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's mandate. The governor's mandate allows for tests once or twice a week for those who choose not to be vaccinated. Also, there are some religious and medical exemptions. However, with Baraka's order, if an exempt employee tests positive, he/she can be terminated from their job. However, if a vaccinated person tests positive, he/she will be required to quarantine for 2 weeks. Why isn't the same rule applied for exempt employees as well?

Tarantino said that the union wants Mayor Baraka to come to the table for negotiations. Tarantino added that the union wants the mayor to go in-line with the governor's order and not fire or terminate any employees.

"I expect about 1000 to 1500 employees to join the protest," Tarantino said before the event.

The protest was open to all city employees. More than 1,500 employees joined a spirited and peaceful protest. Roads were not closed, and many cars and buses passing by joined in support by honking their horns.



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*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Looking At The Law**

When I worked as a professor and taught ethics at a college in Massachusetts, each evening on my drive home, I looked forward to listening to the attorney and radio personality, Neil Chayet, as he discussed the complicated questions under the title "Looking at the Law."

His political views were never always up my lane, but I was careful to listen to him because, amidst the complicated question on the law, he helped me to understand that some laws that politicians were passing and declaring to be very simple were not as simple as they were being made out to be. I gathered that often enough, the laws, despite the explanations, were influenced by self-interest.

Over the last few weeks, I have been listening to some attorneys trying to explain many of the new laws being passed in various states regarding voting rights and ballot security, mask-wearing and banning abortion. And I am chagrined how they are presenting questions of equality, justice and freedom. Many of the explanations reveal

that most, if not all, of the laws, are constructed to serve self-centered motivations and efforts to maintain power and oppressive positions.

Thanks be to God that his laws are different. The laws of God are not built on self-centered motivations but on love which is the total reflection of the character of God, namely that "God is love." In 1 John 4:16, we read this, "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them."

When a certain scribe came to Jesus to ask him, which is the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV).

One would wish that those who are making the laws of the land, and those of us who are saying that we want to live by the law, would spend more time studying the love of God. The Law of God reflects love, and it is a tragedy that more attention is not given to love, instead of all the attention given to making laws to gain an advantage over one another.

Let me give the invitation to anyone who has an interest in God to take a careful look at the Law of God as the Apostle James invites us to do:

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing (James 1:22-25 ESV).

We must not forget that the Law is like a mirror - for both God and human beings. The Law is seen as the truest reflection of the divine character. The reflection reveals that God is holy, loving and just. But just as a mirror cannot take the dirt from our faces, so the Law cannot. The Law reveals our sins, but it is not a cleansing agent. We must therefore ask the Lord to give us his cleansing love to transform us.

What God did through the cross in giving his Son to satisfy the Law is something we need to understand, namely that laws alone will not change our world; we need the love of God in our hearts to transform us. For this reason, God offers the Covenant Promise that he will put his laws into our hearts. "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

Might I suggest that we ask God to seat the Law in our hearts and that we spend more time looking at the Law so that we can have stronger moral sensibilities for love and justice and for the boundaries of freedom that God intends for all of us humans.

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

limit the spread as those that may be possibly positive would not be mixing with other students in the highways.

Another mitigation measure, and perhaps the most dependable yet is vaccinations. Now, I understand kids below 12 cannot get the vaccines yet, but teachers can. There was a case where a teacher was found out to have spread the virus to half of her class. People that can get the vaccine should. While the Delta strain has shown to be able to

evade the protective activities of the vaccine, the vaccines still work to a degree and getting booster doses seem to work just fine.

Other mitigation measures like social distancing and quarantine of suspected individuals must also not be neglected. I am a strong advocate for reopening schools, but only when it is safe. And these mitigation measures can help assure of some level of safety.

Those interested in learning more about the mitigation measures, check out: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7mnpty>.

Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

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**FINANCE** (Continued from page 7)

the advisory services that we provided. The other reason why our client paid us was because they would identify areas where the business needed more infor-

mation, and we were tasked to obtain such information for them. This allowed our client to benefit from our services while staying focused on their core business. All in all, this relationship worked positively for both

parties.

In the next part we will continue with information about starting a new business. Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on starting a new business. I will do

my best to respond, and, in some cases, I will write on some of these questions.

Your questions and comments can be sent to [localtalk-news@gmail.com](mailto:localtalk-news@gmail.com).



**SETON HALL & MONTCLAIR STATE**

**STUDENTS MISSING IN FLOODS**

(Continued from page 1)

saic River.

Passaic Mayor Hector Lora said that "we want to be strategic and specific with our efforts because we also want to preserve the lives of our emergency responders, our firefighters, our divers."

As of 8:38 a.m. Saturday, September 4, dive crews suspended search in Passaic for the missing students, CBS New York reported.

Rana's father said that his wife was not eating, anxiously awaiting news.

"My wife, she's not eating nothing. Very dangerous situation at home. Serious matter," CBS New York reported Rana's father as saying.

**Seton Hall University reaction**

Back at Seton Hall University, the student newspaper Setonian reported that Nidhi Rana is a commuter student that participates in the Division of Volunteer Efforts, according to SHU President Joseph E. Nyre. The president announced Rana's disappearance to SHU community on September 3 in an email.

The university also announced a Student Emergency Fund for those students "who have been impacted by the September 1, 2021 storm." According to shu.edu website, only one request per student is allowed; only full-time, current students are eligible; students must exhaust their immediate support network of friends and family; and grants cannot exceed \$500.

Priority is given to food, medicine and utilities. Tuition and loans, lab fees, university room and board, or other academic expenses and refunds are not covered. Only students, no one else, are eligible for assistance.

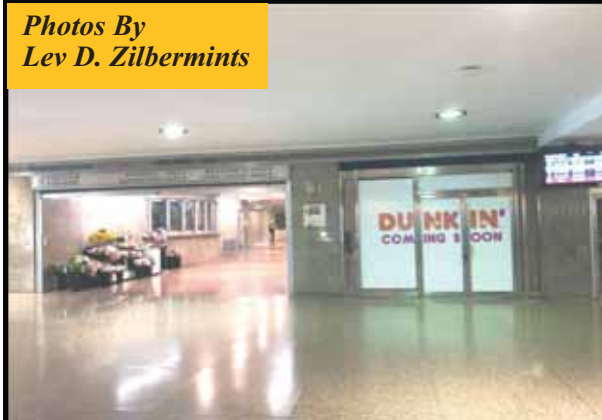
**Montclair State University reaction**

The Montclarion, Montclair State University student newspaper, had no reports of a missing student as of 11:41 p.m. Saturday, September 4. There were reports of flooding in various halls and leaks in dormitories, of classes being cancelled. Students shared experiences of surviving the September 1 downpour and flood. However, nowhere was notice of a missing MSU student published despite coverage by television and Seton Hall's student newspaper.

MSU officials stated that Ayush Rani was accepted to, but did not start, Montclair State University. Classes at MSU started September 4.

**NEW STORES AT NEWARK PENN STATION**

Photos By Lev D. Zilbermints



By Lev D. Zilbermints

**NEWARK** - Several new stores have opened at Newark Penn Station. These include Dunkin Donuts and two new flower shops. Local Talk visited Penn Station not long ago and found out the following.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Newark Penn Station was home to many businesses. These included Hudson News, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, a pizzeria, a flower shop, a liquor store, and two stores selling fast food to eat. There are also stands that sell various types of nuts, watches, hats and clothing.

Once the coronavirus pandemic hit, some stores closed down for good. These included the two snack stores and the flower shop. For the past two years, both locations have sat under lock and key, unused. That may be changing, however.

Dunkin Donuts, which used to have a visible storefront by the main entrance at Penn Station, has announced moving to a new location inside Penn Station proper. The new location is the site of the old snack store. According to an information sign, Dunkin Donuts has moved on or about late August to the new location.

Dunkin Donuts will still be selling donuts, drinks, sandwiches and other food.

Another change is the new flower shop at Penn Station. It is owned by Hudson Flowers. There are two new flower stores. One is located at the site of the old snack store, opposite the entrance to Track 1, Path Train. The second one is located right opposite the first store. Both stores sell flowers such as roses, tulips, and potted plants.

A salesman for Hudson News told Local Talk that Hudson News and Hudson Flowers were two separate, distinct companies.



# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

Local football season is underway, and this past weekend featured some great action. First, the East Orange Campus Jaguars battled the Montclair Mounties. These two teams have been rivals for a long time. East Orange was led by Raenden Oliver who was 18-27 passing for 233 yards and touchdown passes to BJ Covington. Damon Phillips ran the ball 31 times for 227 yards and scored two touchdowns for the Jags. All of this helped deliver a 37-28 victory over Montclair.

The teams were supposed to play the game at SHI Stadium in New Brunswick as part of the Rumble on the Raritan. However, the game was moved to East Orange at Roberson Stadium due to the effects of Tropical Storm Ida.

Another game moved from

SHI Stadium was Seton Hall Prep's game against Union City, which was played in Union City. The Prep Pirates handled Union City 48-6 in a blowout. Seton Hall Prep is now 2-0 on the season. Senior Myles Thomason led the team with 240 yards and 3 TDs on 14 carries.

In other area games, West Side lost to Passaic County Tech 21-12 in the Zone Six Football Classic. West Orange got crushed by Top 20 powerhouse St. Peter's 49-8, while the Orange Tornadoes lost to Chatham 43-7. Meanwhile, the Central High Blue Devils lost to Lincoln High 36-6.

Finally, Yankees legend Derek Jeter was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame along with Rockies star Larry Walker and three others. This ceremony was actually for 2020 inductees, as their ceremony was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photos By Keith Munford

## TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

trains may have noticed an activity resumption lately.

The Frankoski Construction Company is pouring concrete foundation footings in two areas of the 1898 clubhouse and is replacing a rotted wall framing. These are two additional major tasks that required a \$189,970.49 change order.

The Village Board of Trustees approved almost \$190,000 in additional expenses at their Aug. 9 meeting. Trustee Steve Haskins said Frankoski workers found the old print room having a rubble foundation and the wall framing hidden by cladding - making it impossible for Biber Partnership AIA architects to find them during their 2018-19 inspection.

The Baird Center's renovation is a year behind in part from the global COVID-19 pandemic and the discovery and immediate remediation of found asbestos.

The Trustees are hoping that the major change orders are now behind them. Construction at 5 Meade St. is now to be completed in October 2022.

**MAPLEWOOD** - Sept. 1's flooding of the Maplewood Memorial Library and its resulting closure has advanced a scheduled Sept. 17 shuttering for "A Library for the 21st Century" project.

MML's services here at 51 Baker St., in Jefferson Village, will be divided between the Hilton Branch, 1688 Springfield Ave. and the former Maplewood First Aid Squad/OEM Building at 189 Boyden Ave.

The Hilton Branch will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays for Grab and Go and held materials now through Oct. 4. Returns may be made there or at any BCCLS-member library.

Hilton's public computers will be limited to 60 mins per person per day. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

The branch will offer children and teen services as planned on Sept. 18. Adult services only at 129 Boyden, next to the municipal pool, is to start Oct. 4.

Those services include Grab & Go, lending materials, photocopying and public computers for adults. Its hours are to be 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Both places will require mask-wearing to enter.

**BLOOMFIELD** - The body of 24-year resident Aventino Soares, 58, is on its way back to his native Portugal, after his Sept. 8 visitation in The Ironbound's Buyuus Funeral Home and his Sept. 9 Funeral Mass at Forest Hill's St. Francis Xavier Church.

Soares was declared dead at Belleville's RWJBarnabas Health's Clara Maas Medical Center Sept. 1. He was among the first identified victims of Tropical Storm Ida.

Soares, as of Sept. 1, had been a manager at Fairfield's Beyband International institutional foodservice supply since 1989. He and his family had been living along Ampere Parkway since moving from North Newark in 1997.

Aventino Antonio Cabral Soares, who was born in Arcos de Valdevez, Port. Oct. 1, 1962. He had emigrated to Newark in 1986. He was a co-founder of Amigos de Vale USA, which raises funds to help repair a church in Sao Pedro do Vale.

Wife Maria De Lurdes Rodriguez Soares, son Pedro, daughters Patricia Soares and Silvia Amorim, sisters Maria do Ceu Soares, Rosa Gandarez and

Olivia Fernandes; mother Maria Adelaide Magalhaes Cabral, four grandsons and a granddaughter are among his survivors. Father Manuel de Cunha Soares predeceased him.

Memorial donations may be made to [www.amigosdovaleusa.com](http://www.amigosdovaleusa.com)

**MONTCLAIR** - A Totowa pet care spa and alleged animal hospital remain closed since Aug. 21 in part because a Superior Court Judge-Paterson told its Montclair owner to stay away for the time being.

Alia Muslih, 39, was released to her township home while under pre-trial monitoring. She was arrested without incident by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Financial Crimes Unit at the Totowa Animal Hospital at 140 Furler St. Aug. 20.

County prosecutors plus members of the Totowa Police Department, Paterson and Clifton Animal Control, N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs and the U.S. DEA arrived during business hours that Friday. They also left there with evidence and closed the Seven Star Pet Resort.

Muslih's husband, Dr. Adel Hamdan, was a licensed veterinarian and to run a practice

(Continued on page 15)



**IDA**

(Continued from page 8)

cell phones after their morning Mass. The photos showed what the holder said was the remains of a lightning strike at Bloomfield's Broad and Bay streets' intersection. That intersection also suffered from water streaming down from Glen Ridge's Bay Street and a rising Third River.

Other flooded areas included Bloomfield Towne Centre, Nutley's Franklin Avenue and Harrison Street, East Orange's Grove Street at Hoffman Boulevard and

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

there. Hamdan, 73, however, died Dec. 30 from COVID. Muslih said she had promised him that she would never sell the practice "to a corporation" and to take care of pets even if their owners have no money.

Muslih is accused of creating a false impression that she was a licensed veterinarian. The New Jersey Board of Veterinary Medicine said that she is not a licensed vet nor that the animal hospital is a licensed veterinary clinic.

Muslih has been charged with second-degree theft by deception, corporate misconduct and unlicensed possession of prescription drugs. Each count is punishable for five to 10 state imprisonment. She has also been charged with third-degree animal cruelty, a three-to-five-year sentence.

**GLEN RIDGE** - "Local Talk" has learned while walking by the borough's active railroad station Jan. 3 that it is best to directly access a transit carrier and/or talk with its operating crew to get the most timely service updates.

"Local Talk" was pleasantly surprised upon hearing the horn of the approaching eastbound NJTransit Montclair-Boonton Line Train No. 6210 and ran to meet it before its scheduled 7:39 a.m. departure. Most radio stations, as late as five minutes before, were stating that the line was among those still suspended in the wake of former Hurricane Ida.

6210's train crew said that all Montclair State University to Hoboken or New York Penn Station services had resumed that morning. The crew, while heading for NYPS, explained that MBL non-electric service west of MSU to Hackettstown remained suspended.

Montclair-Boonton's west of MSU service resumed early Sept. 7 - the same day where the Raritan Valley Line was bypassing its Bridgewater station due to remaining flooding.

**BELLEVILLE** - The long-awaited Municipal Stadium's new turf gridiron will get its first field test between the Belleville High School Buccaneers and the visiting Nutley High Red Raiders just after

Central Avenue/Duryea Street and Ferry and Chapel streets in Newark.

A "Local Talk" delivery crew found streets that crossed the Rahway River East Branch and/or went under the NJTransit Morris and Essex Line's overpasses partially or fully closed from South Orange Village and through the Orange-West Orange Valley.

Mud, mixed perhaps with sewage and other contaminants, caked street corners and curbs. It covered sides of cars parked along South Jefferson Street from Central Avenue and Glebe Street.

6:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

The kickoff for the annual Mayors Cup Trophy will follow a ceremonial ribbon-cutting by NFL New York Giants stars O.J. Anderson and Stephen Baker along with Mayor Michael Melham and the Township Council.

The \$5.5 million project, undertaken this summer, included replacing the 2010 turf field, installing an all-purpose infield for track and field sports, adding an encircling eight-lane quarter-mile track and putting in a new stormwater management system.

Friday night's lights are courtesy of Belleville Public Schools, which kicked in \$500,000 for the new LED system. The township bonded for \$3 million and was awarded \$2 million in State DEP Green Acres grants.

Sept. 10 means that BHS' sports teams have a home. The football Buccaneers have been making ports of call at rivals' gridirons since 2017.

The BHS track and field team has not had a home here since the 1980s.

Municipal Stadium, built as a 1930s Works Progress Administration project, came with a grass field and a cinder track.

**NUTLEY** - The township Board of Education will review and perhaps approve of a letter on mask mandates, being drafted by members Teri Quirk and Kenneth Reilly, as early as their Sept. 20 meeting.

Reilly and Quirk were tasked with drafting the letter to Gov. Phil Murphy after their resolution was passed by the board, 6-1-2, at their Aug. 23 meeting. The two members, who are up for reelection on Nov. 2, said they were responding to the will of that Monday night's public speakers.

The speakers were predominantly critical of Murphy's executive order requiring everyone on school property to wear face masks. Board President Charles Kucinski had waived the panel's three minutes per person and overall 20 minutes' public speaking segment limits that night.

The commissioners had approved mandatory mask-wearing in all township buildings on Aug. 2. The Nutley Public Library Trustees followed suit Aug. 4.

Restaurant staff at Bella Italia, 535 Central Ave., were spraying and washing off the residue the premises. Its owner, Sal Granata, said it was the worst flooding the restaurant had suffered in its 40 years.

The "Local Talk" delivery crew also found, on observation at East Orange's Springdale Avenue and Orange's Thomas Boulevard, how a few feet of elevation made a difference.

A staff member at the Coppergate senior citizens apartment, 780 Springdale, said flooding from Wigwam Brook left the building operating "at 60 percent." Its telecommunication units and its elevator bank were down.

All appeared normal however across the street at the Brookside, 777 Springdale. The two Orange senior citizen buildings on Wigwam's other side also appeared to be unaffected.

The delivery crew also found more Ida-related power outages in East Orange.

Residents outside of Heritage House Apartments, 50 So. Munn Ave., said that their electrical and elevator systems had been out since the overnight.

Central Avenue between South Munn Avenue and Halsted Street had its traffic light signals out. Most of the businesses along the county road's way were also dark. The East Orange Police Department was duly informed; power to most places was restored same time Sept. 3.

PSE&G, 6 a.m. Sept. 2, reported 68,000 customers without power across its territory - half of which were in Essex County. The utility, 24 hours later, cut those backlogs in half.

PSE&G reported power outages affecting 2,100 households or 24,000 people, in Newark alone. There were 70 households concentrated along Mapes Avenue and Hunterdon Street in the South Ward's Weequahic section.

Members of Bloomfield Ner Tamid celebrated a miracle along with their Rosh Hashanna/New Year's services Sept. 7-9. Rabbi Marc Katz said that the custodial staff worked Sept. 2-3 to limit what water damage had seeped into the synagogue. Contractors were replacing the temple's roof, "when the rain got in the way."



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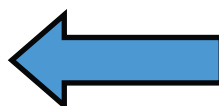
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